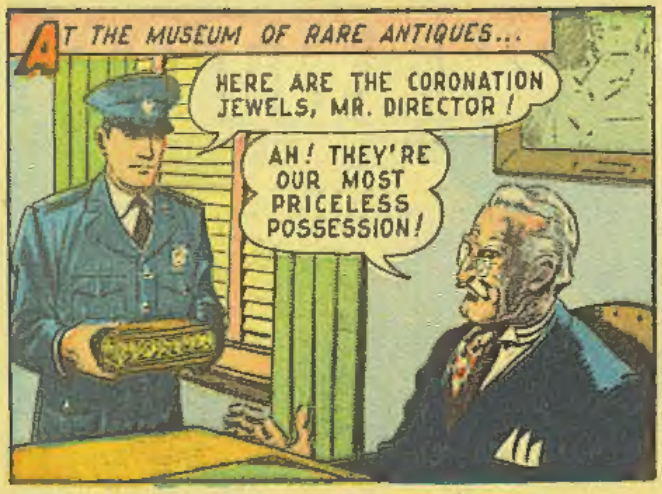
BLONDE PHANTOM

10¢

NO. 13

COMICS

BLONDE PHANTOM
"PERIL from the PAST!


AT THE MUSEUM OF RARE ANTIQUES...
HERE ARE THE CORONATION JEWELS, MR. DIRECTOR!
AH! THEY'RE OUR MOST PRICELESS POSSESSION!

THEY HAVE QUITE A HISTORY! THEY WERE BROUGHT TO AMERICA BY A GROUP OF ROYALISTS WHO INTENDED TO CROWN GEORGE WASHINGTON KING!

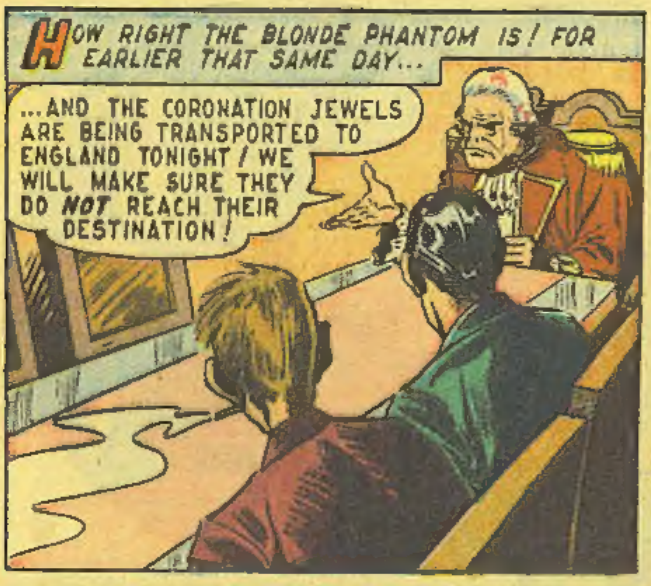
"BUT WASHINGTON PREFERRED TO OBTAIN HIS POWER TO RULE FROM THE PEOPLE. HE CHOSE TO BE PRESIDENT RATHER THAN KING!"

NOW THESE JEWELS WILL GO TO THE BRITISH MUSEUM FOR DISPLAY. THEY'LL NEED PROTECTION! MARK MASON IS JUST THE MAN TO GUARD THEM!

AND SO, LATER THAT DAY...
TAKE CARE OF THINGS WHILE I'M GONE, LOUISE! I'M OFF TO ENGLAND AT MIDNIGHT, ESCORTING A FORTUNE IN JEWELS!

EARLY THAT EVENING, LOUISE GRANT, SECRETARY, BECOMES THE BLONDE PHANTOM, BEAUTIFUL LADY OF MYSTERY!
IF MARK THINKS HE'S LEAVING ME BEHIND, HE'S MISTAKEN! OFFICE ROUTINE IS TOO DULL!

AND SO, AS THE LUXURY LINER LEAVES NEW YORK HARBOR...
WITH A MILLION DOLLARS IN JEWELS ON BOARD, THE "VULTURES" SHOULD BE GATHERING ON THIS TRIP!


HOW RIGHT THE BLONDE PHANTOM IS! FOR EARLIER THAT SAME DAY...
...AND THE CORONATION JEWELS ARE BEING TRANSPORTED TO ENGLAND TONIGHT! WE WILL MAKE SURE THEY DO NOT REACH THEIR DESTINATION!

MANY YEARS AGO, ONE OF MY ANCESTORS HELPED TO PURCHASE THESE CROWN JEWELS FOR WASHINGTON! HE WAS MOST CRUELLY BETRAYED! BUT I, THE REDCOAT, WILL RETRIEVE OUR FAMILY HONOR!

YOU WILL BE AMPLY REWARDED, MY WORTHIES! FOR PEASANTS SUCH AS YOURSELVES, AN OPPORTUNITY LIKE THIS COMES BUT ONCE IN A LIFETIME!
YOU CAN'T CALL ME A PEASANT— YOU WITH YOUR FINE AIRS!

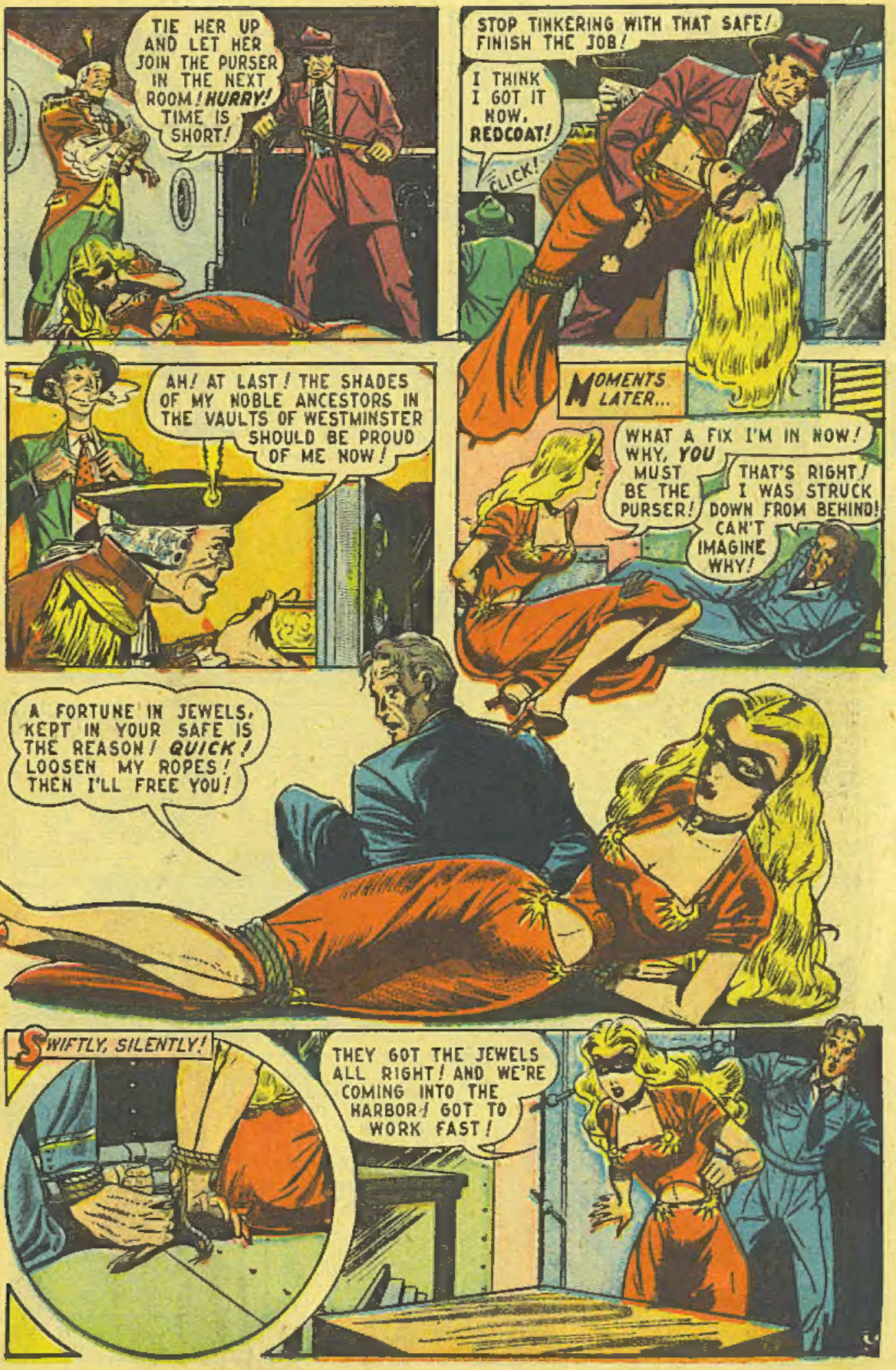
I'LL... OOOF!
MUST I TEACH YOU YOUR PLACE AGAIN?

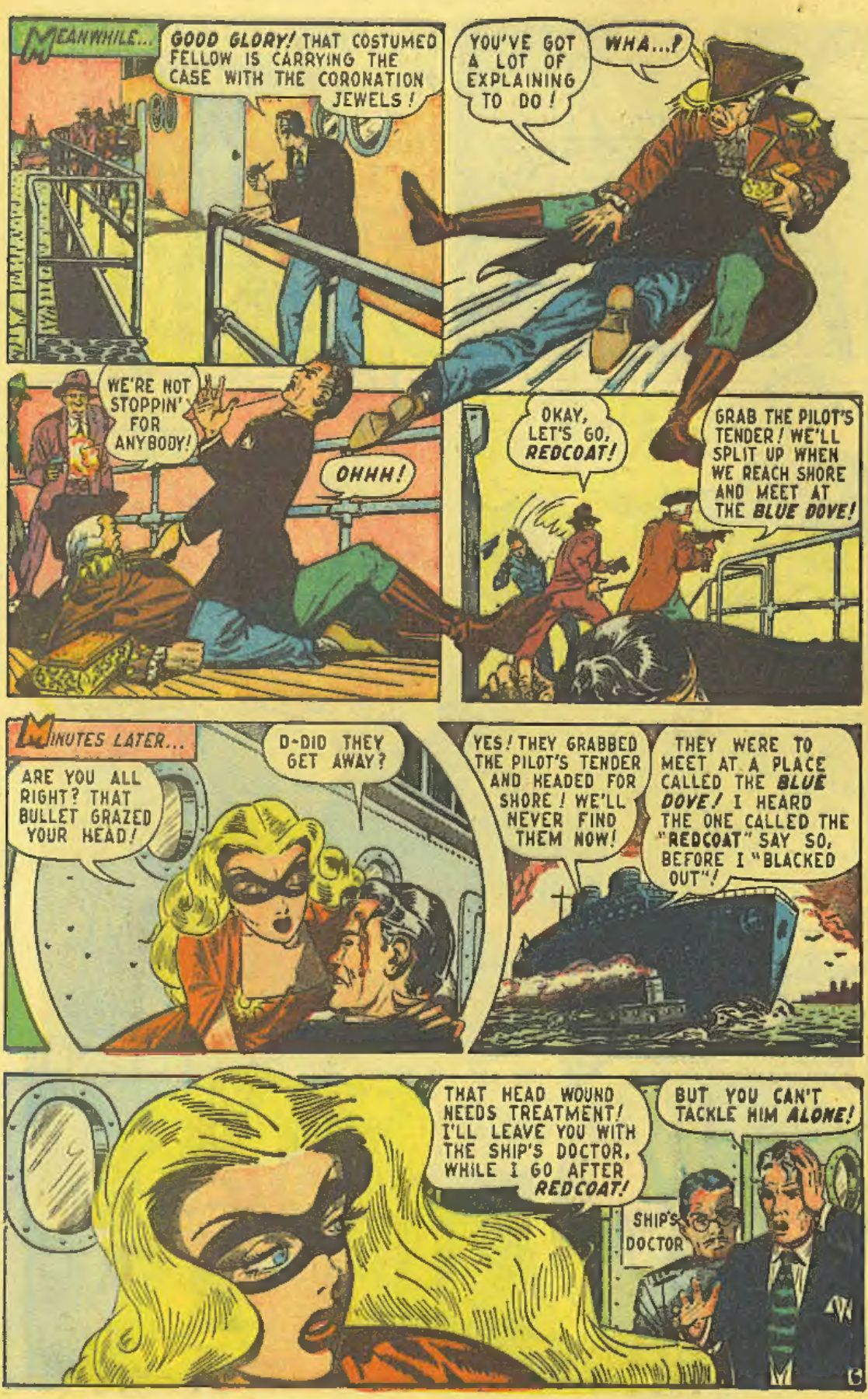
I-I'M SORRY, REDCOAT! GUESS I LOST MY TEMPER!
I WOULD DEAL MORE HARSHLY WITH YOU, IF THERE WERE NOT MORE IMPORTANT BUSINESS AT HAND! LUCKILY FOR YOU!

SEVERAL DAYS LATER, WHEN THE HUGE LINER IS ONLY A FEW MILES FROM SOUTHAMPTON, ENGLAND...
SO FAR, SO GOOD! THE JEWELS ARE SAFE IN THE PURSER'S VAULT AND...
OOOF!

BLONDE PHANTOM! IMAGINE BUMPING INTO YOU HERE!
WHY, MARK MASON! I HAD NO IDEA YOU WERE ON THIS BOAT! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE!

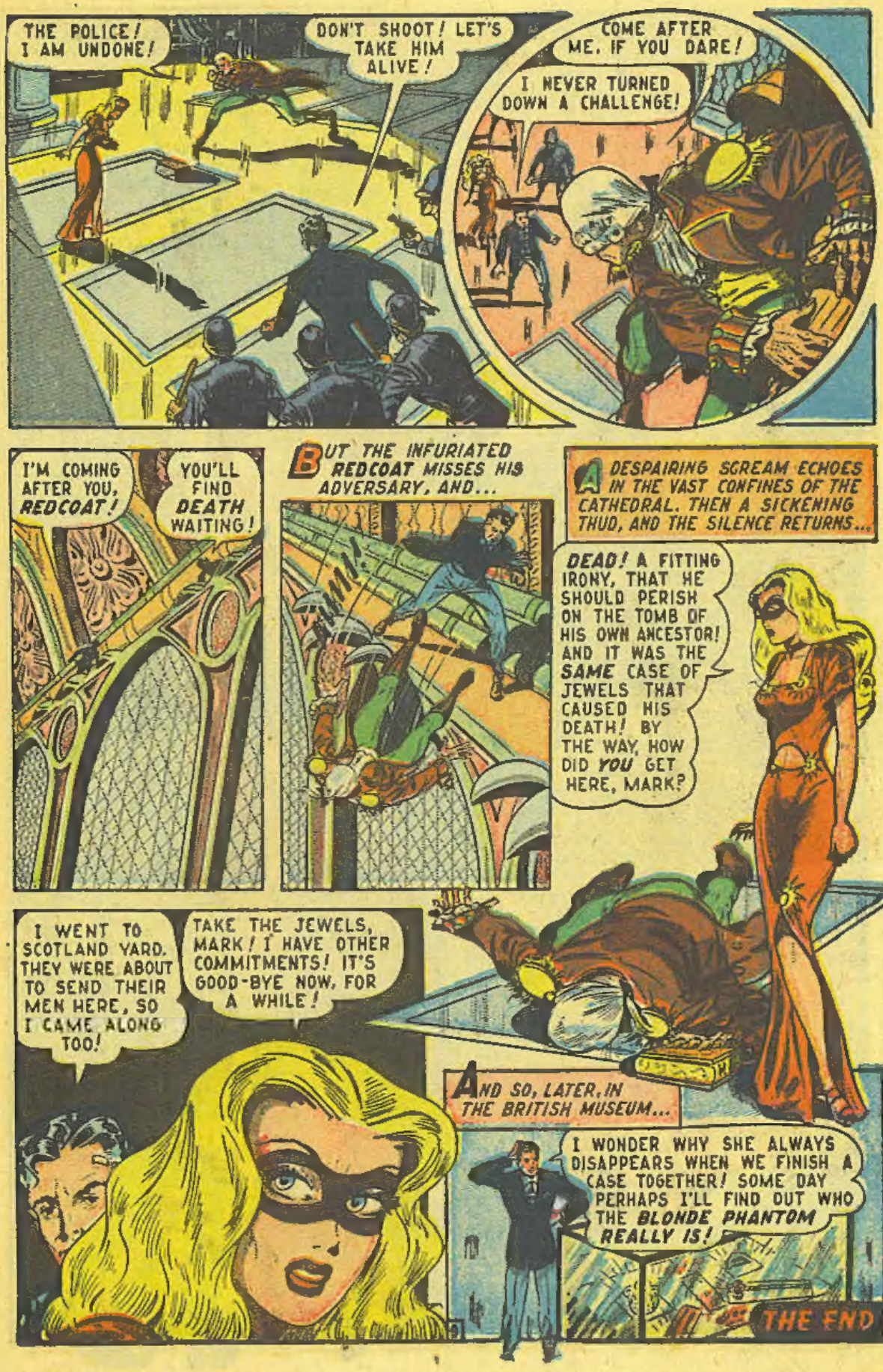
I'M COVERING A CASE OF JEWELS BOUND FOR THE BRITISH MUSEUM! IT'S AN EASY JOB! THE JEWELS ARE PERFECTLY SAFE IN THE PURSER'S OFFICE!
THAT'S WHAT I WANTED TO KNOW! I'M NOT TOO SURE THOSE JEWELS ARE SAFE!
LATER...
IF ANYONE INTENDS TO STEAL THE JEWELS, HE'D WAIT UNTIL JUST BEFORE WE DOCKED AT SOUTHAMPTON! I'LL KEEP AN EYE ON THE PURSER'S SAFE!
AT THIS VERY MOMENT, THE REDCOAT STRIKES!
QUICKLY! DRAG HIM INTO THE NEXT CABIN AND TIE HIM UP!
PURSER
NOW IT'S YOUR TURN, LIGHTFINGERS! IT IS BECAUSE OF YOUR PECULIAR TALENT WITH SAFES THAT I SPARED YOU FOR THIS MOMENT!
LEAVE IT TO ME, REDCOAT! I'LL GET THIS TIN BOX OPEN IN A HURRY!
WELL, WELL! WHEN THE PURSER'S AWAY, A CROOK WILL PLAY!
THE BLONDE PHANTOM!
WE'RE NOT PLAYING, MY BEAUTIFUL DAMSEL!


TIE HER UP AND LET HER JOIN THE PURSER IN THE NEXT ROOM! HURRY! TIME IS SHORT!
STOP TINKERING WITH THAT SAFE! FINISH THE JOB!
I THINK I GOT IT NOW, REDCOAT!
CLICK!
AH! AT LAST! THE SHADES OF MY NOBLE ANCESTORS IN THE VAULTS OF WESTMINSTER SHOULD BE PROUD OF ME NOW!
MOMENTS LATER...
WHAT A FIX I'M IN NOW! WHY, YOU MUST BE THE PURSER!
THAT'S RIGHT! I WAS STRUCK DOWN FROM BEHIND! CAN'T IMAGINE WHY!
A FORTUNE IN JEWELS, KEPT IN YOUR SAFE IS THE REASON! QUICK! LOOSEN MY ROPES! THEN I'LL FREE YOU!
SWIFTLY, SILENTLY!
THEY GOT THE JEWELS ALL RIGHT! AND WE'RE COMING INTO THE HARBOR! GOT TO WORK FAST!


MEANWHILE...
GOOD GLORY! THAT COSTUMED FELLOW IS CARRYING THE CASE WITH THE CORONATION JEWELS!
YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF EXPLAINING TO DO!
WHA...?
WE'RE NOT STOPPIN' FOR ANYBODY!
OHHH!
OKAY, LET'S GO, REDCOAT!
GRAB THE PILOT'S TENDER! WE'LL SPLIT UP WHEN WE REACH SHORE AND MEET AT THE BLUE DOVE!
MINUTES LATER...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? THAT BULLET GRAZED YOUR HEAD!
D-DID THEY GET AWAY?
YES! THEY GRABBED THE PILOT'S TENDER AND HEADED FOR SHORE! WE'LL NEVER FIND THEM NOW!
THEY WERE TO MEET AT A PLACE CALLED THE BLUE DOVE! I HEARD THE ONE CALLED THE "REDCOAT" SAY SO, BEFORE I "BLACKED OUT"!
THAT HEAD WOUND NEEDS TREATMENT! I'LL LEAVE YOU WITH THE SHIP'S DOCTOR, WHILE I GO AFTER REDCOAT!
BUT YOU CAN'T TACKLE HIM ALONE!
SHIP'S DOCTOR

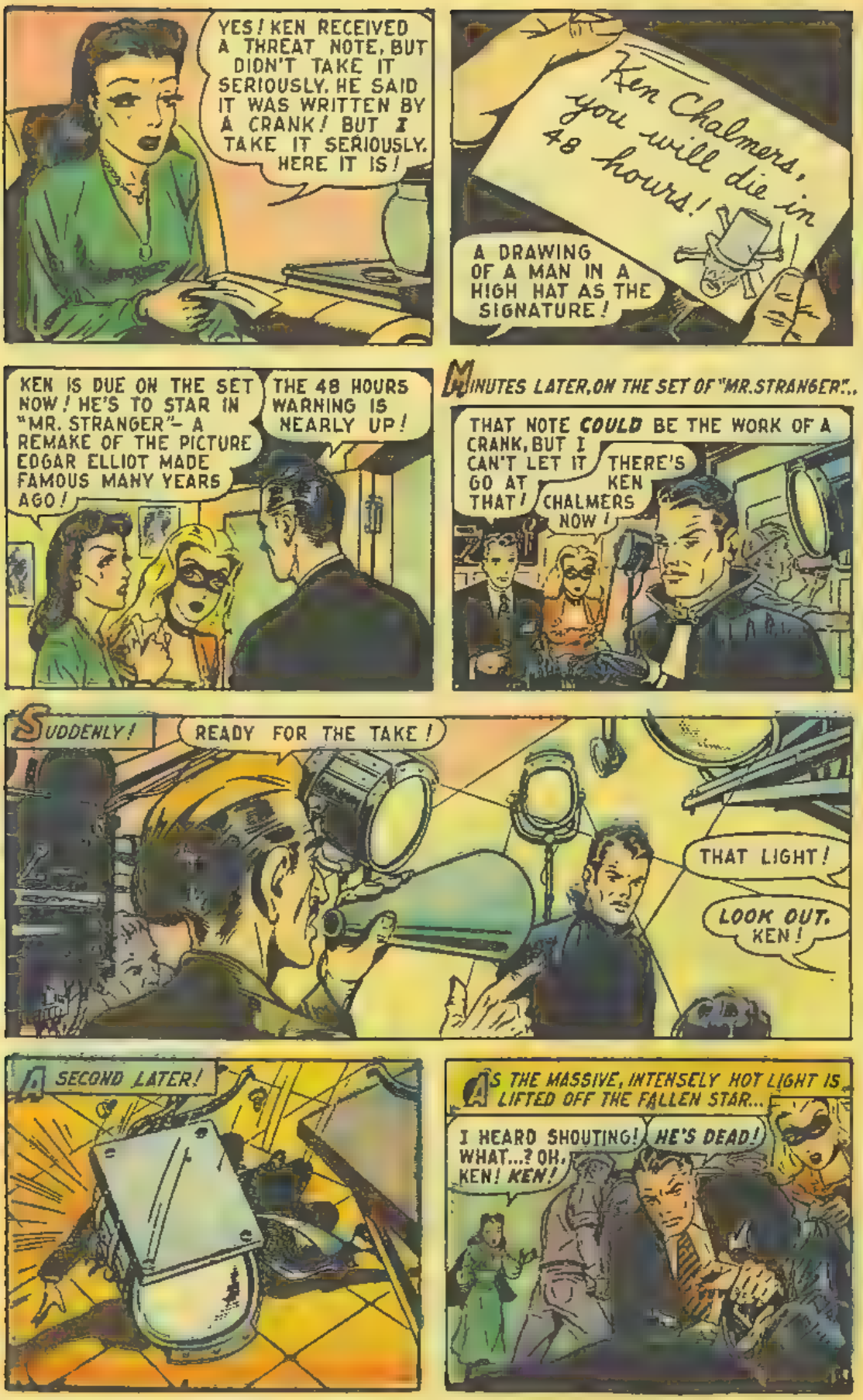
ON LONDON'S SOHO DISTRICT, A NOTORIOUS HEADQUARTERS FOR THIEVES IS THE BLUE DOVE CAFÉ...
WHAT A CREW OF PLUG-UGLIES! I CAN'T IMAGINE REDCOAT IN A SETTING LIKE THIS!
REDCOAT SAID HE'D MEET US HERE! BUT HE'S OVER AN HOUR LATE ALREADY! I THINK WE'VE BEEN DOUBLE-CROSSED!
LOOK!
IT'S THE BLONDE PHANTOM!
HELLO, BOYS! I SEE THAT YOU WERE RIGHT ON TIME...
...EVEN IF REDCOAT WASN'T!
HELP! I CAN'T SEE!
THAT TAKES CARE OF YOU, FOR THE TIME BEING!
UHHHH!
LATER, WHEN A LONDON BOBBIE ARRIVES TO TAKE OVER...
REDCOAT WAS TOO CLEVER FOR YOU! HE NEVER INTENDED TO MEET YOU HERE! HE ONLY WANTED THE JEWELS FOR HIMSELF!
REDCOAT WAS ALWAYS BOASTIN' ABOUT SOME ANCESTORS OF HIS THAT'S BURIED IN WESTMINSTER ABBEY! HE SAID HE USED TO VISIT THEM THERE REGULAR! I'LL BET THAT'S WHERE HE'D SHOW UP!

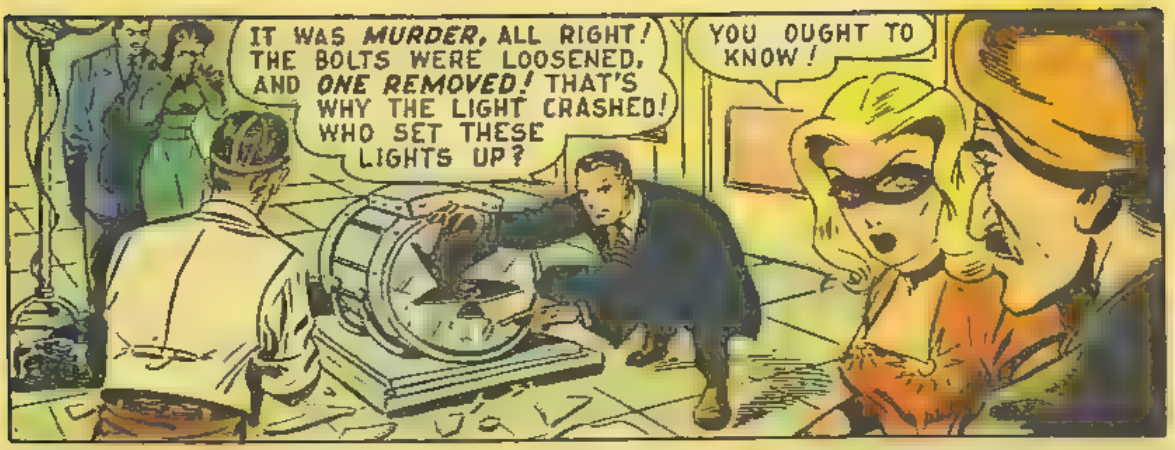
AFTER CONTACTING SCOTLAND YARD, BLONDE PHANTOM MAKES HER WAY TO WESTMINSTER ABBEY...
WHAT AN IMPRESSIVE PLACE! MAKES YOU FEEL AS THOUGH ALL THE GREAT MEN OF THE CENTURIES WERE WATCHING YOU!
IN A CORNER OF THE VAST CATHEDRAL...
MY APPOINTED TASK IS DONE! THE CORONATION JEWELS WHICH OUR FAMILY PURCHASED WITH ITS MONEY AND BLOOD ARE NOW RETURNED TO US! I HAVE ACQUITTED MYSELF WITH HONOR!
THEN!
YOU MEAN THERE IS HONOR AMONG THIEVES? FOR YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A COMMON THIEF!
YOU-HERE?
I'LL KILL YOU, ONCE AND FOR ALL!
HERE, IN THE SIGHT OF MY ANCESTORS, YOU WILL DIE!
(GASP!) I CAN'T BREATH!
LUCKY FOR ME I KNOW A LITTLE ABOUT JUDO!
ULP!
A CLEVER TRICK! BUT YOU CAN'T ESCAPE ME!
THERE HE IS, MEN!
18

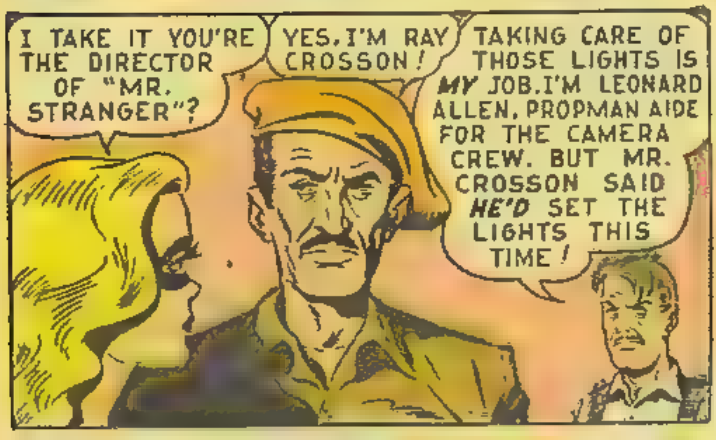

THE POLICE! I AM UNDONE!
DON'T SHOOT! LET'S TAKE HIM ALIVE!
COME AFTER ME, IF YOU DARE!
I NEVER TURNED DOWN A CHALLENGE!
I'M COMING AFTER YOU, REDCOAT!
YOU'LL FIND DEATH WAITING!
BUT THE INFURIATED REDCOAT MISSES HIS ADVERSARY, AND...
A DESPAIRING SCREAM ECHOES IN THE VAST CONFINES OF THE CATHEDRAL. THEN A SICKENING THUD, AND THE SILENCE RETURNS...
DEAD! A FITTING IRONY, THAT HE SHOULD PERISH ON THE TOMB OF HIS OWN ANCESTOR! AND IT WAS THE SAME CASE OF JEWELS THAT CAUSED HIS DEATH! BY THE WAY, HOW DID YOU GET HERE, MARK?
I WENT TO SCOTLAND YARD. THEY WERE ABOUT TO SEND THEIR MEN HERE, SO I CAME ALONG TOO!
TAKE THE JEWELS, MARK! I HAVE OTHER COMMITMENTS! IT'S GOOD-BYE NOW, FOR A WHILE!
AND SO, LATER, IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM...
I WONDER WHY SHE ALWAYS DISAPPEARS WHEN WE FINISH A CASE TOGETHER! SOME DAY PERHAPS I'LL FIND OUT WHO THE BLONDE PHANTOM REALLY IS!
THE END

BLONDE PHANTOM
DEATH TURNS THE HANDLE AS CAMERAS RECORD A SPINE-CHILLING MURDER SCENE IN THE FABULOUS LAND OF MOVIE STARS! JOIN THE GOLDEN-HAIRED BLONDE PHANTOM AS SHE TRAILS THE HIGH-HAT KILLER IN THIS THRILL-PACKED TALE OF...
"HORROR IN HOLLYWOOD!"

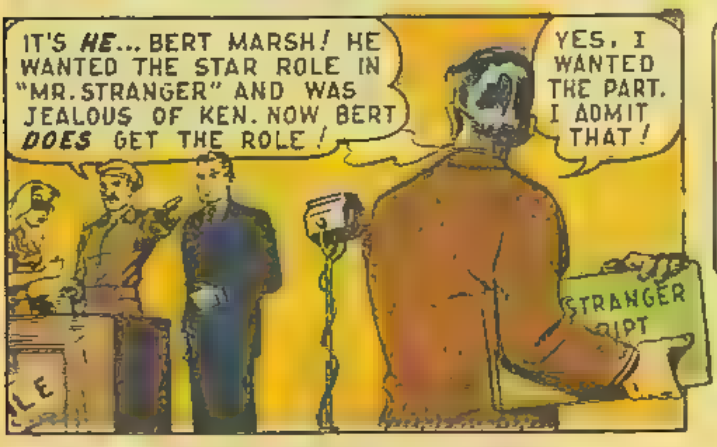
ONE LATE AFTERNOON, AT MARK MASON'S DETECTIVE AGENCY, AN URGENT SUMMONS ARRIVES!
LISTEN TO THIS, LOUISE! "A LIFE IN DANGER. TAKE NEXT PLANE TO HOLLYWOOD-SUNRISE STUDIOS. $1000 FEE AND TRAVEL EXPENSES PROVIDED... DONNA FIELD."
DONNA FIELD, THE MOVIE STAR, ASKING FOR YOU! I DON'T IMAGINE YOU'LL TURN DOWN THIS CASE!
I'M GOING HOME TO PACK A BAG. SORRY I CAN'T TAKE YOU ALONG!
BUT SOMEONE SHOULD STAY HERE AND TAKE CHARGE OF THE OFFICE!
THAT'S WHAT HE THINKS. IT'S ABOUT TIME THE BLONDE PHANTOM SAW HOLLYWOOD!
SOON AFTER MASON LEAVES...
A QUICK TRANSFORMATION, AND QUICK TRANSPORTATION!
SO, WHEN MARK ARRIVES IN HOLLYWOOD THE NEXT MORNING...
BLONDE PHANTOM! WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN FILMLAND?
VACATIONING! AND WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?
SUNRISE STUDIOS
BUSINESS! I'M ON MY WAY TO SEE DONNA FIELD NOW. LIKE TO COME ALONG?
HOW DID HE GUESS?
LET'S GO!
ON THE DRESSING ROOM BUNGALOW OF THE MOVIE QUEEN...
I'M SO GLAD YOU ACCEPTED MY CASE, MR. MASON, AND YOU BROUGHT THE BLONDE PHANTOM TOO! YOU MUST SAVE KEN... I LOVE KEN CHALMERS!
CHALMERS — THE MOVIE HERO?
2


YES! KEN RECEIVED A THREAT NOTE, BUT DIDN'T TAKE IT SERIOUSLY. HE SAID IT WAS WRITTEN BY A CRANK! BUT I TAKE IT SERIOUSLY. HERE IT IS!
Ken Chalmers, you will die in 48 hours!
A DRAWING OF A MAN IN A HIGH HAT AS THE SIGNATURE!
KEN IS DUE ON THE SET NOW! HE'S TO STAR IN "MR. STRANGER"— A REMAKE OF THE PICTURE EDGAR ELLIOT MADE FAMOUS MANY YEARS AGO!
THE 48 HOURS WARNING IS NEARLY UP!
MINUTES LATER, ON THE SET OF "MR. STRANGER"...
THAT NOTE COULD BE THE WORK OF A CRANK, BUT I CAN'T LET IT GO AT THAT!
THERE'S KEN CHALMERS NOW!
SUDDENLY!
READY FOR THE TAKE!
THAT LIGHT!
LOOK OUT, KEN!
A SECOND LATER!
AS THE MASSIVE, INTENSELY HOT LIGHT IS LIFTED OFF THE FALLEN STAR...
I HEARD SHOUTING! WHAT...? OH, KEN! KEN!
HE'S DEAD!

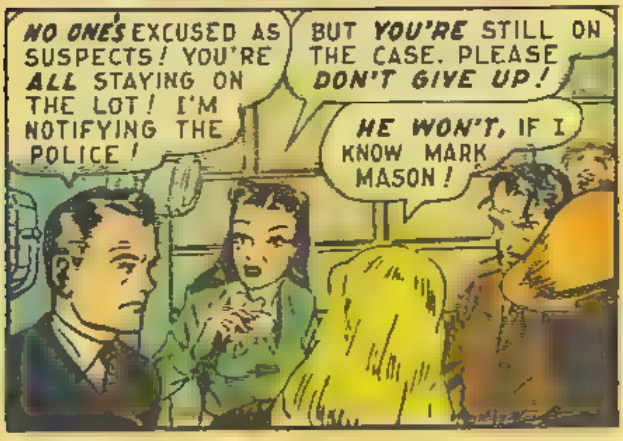

IT WAS MURDER, ALL RIGHT! THE BOLTS WERE LOOSENED, AND ONE REMOVED! THAT'S WHY THE LIGHT CRASHED! WHO SET THESE LIGHTS UP?
YOU OUGHT TO KNOW!

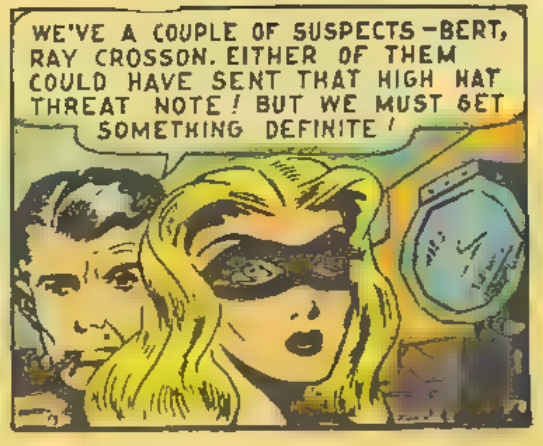

I TAKE IT YOU'RE THE DIRECTOR OF "MR. STRANGER"?
YES, I'M RAY CROSSON!
TAKING CARE OF THOSE LIGHTS IS MY JOB. I'M LEONARD ALLEN, PROPMAN AIDE FOR THE CAMERA CREW. BUT MR. CROSSON SAID HE'D SET THE LIGHTS THIS TIME!

IS THAT TRUE, CROSSON?
YES! BUT I DIDN'T SABOTAGE THAT LIGHT! I'D HAVE NO REASON TO KILL KEN! IF ANYONE WANTED HIM OUT OF THE WAY...


IT'S HE... BERT MARSH! HE WANTED THE STAR ROLE IN "MR. STRANGER" AND WAS JEALOUS OF KEN. NOW BERT DOES GET THE ROLE!
YES, I WANTED THE PART. I ADMIT THAT!
STRANGER

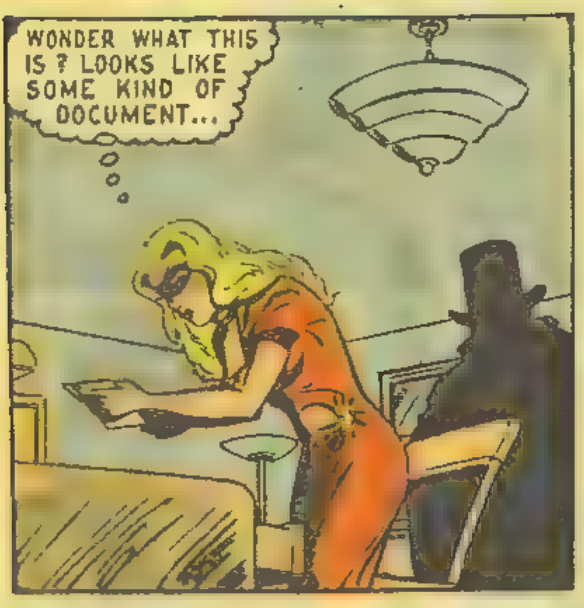
I'VE SEEN PLAY-BACKS OF EDGAR ELLIOT IN THE PART. IT WAS HIS MASTERPIECE. BUT I CAN TOP HIM. YET I DIDN'T KILL KEN! NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...


NO ONE'S EXCUSED AS SUSPECTS! YOU'RE ALL STAYING ON THE LOT! I'M NOTIFYING THE POLICE!
BUT YOU'RE STILL ON THE CASE. PLEASE DON'T GIVE UP!
HE WON'T, IF I KNOW MARK MASON!

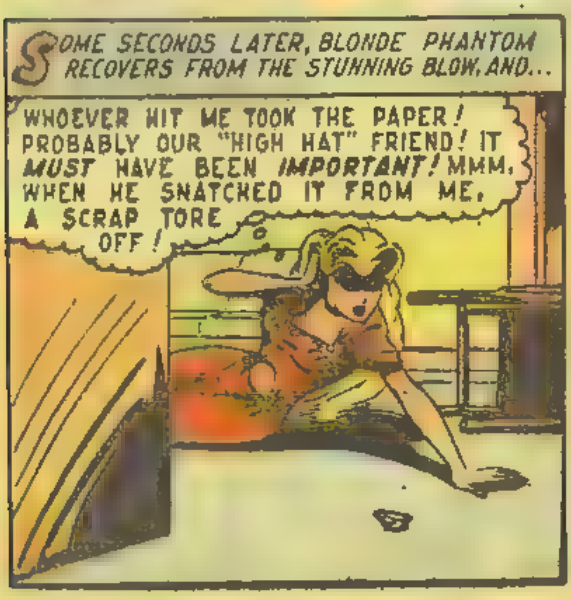

WE'VE A COUPLE OF SUSPECTS—BERT, RAY CROSSON. EITHER OF THEM COULD HAVE SENT THAT HIGH HAT THREAT NOTE! BUT WE MUST GET SOMETHING DEFINITE!

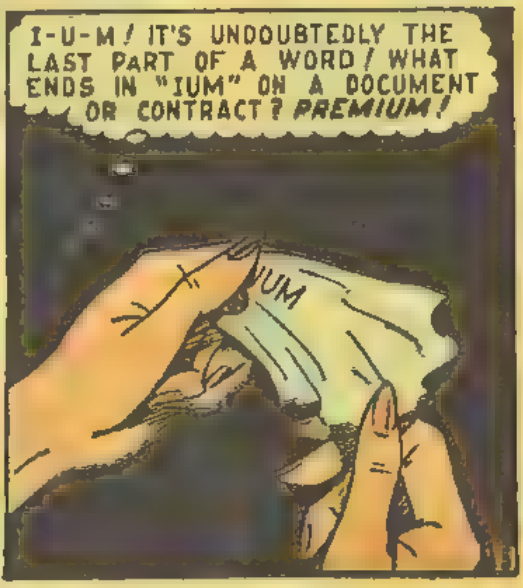
SUPPOSE WE SEARCH DRESSING ROOMS, MARK? WE MIGHT COME ACROSS A LEAD! I'LL START WITH RAY CROSSON'S!
O.K., BEAUTIFUL! I'LL BEGIN BY TACKLING THE MURDER VICTIM'S PLACE!

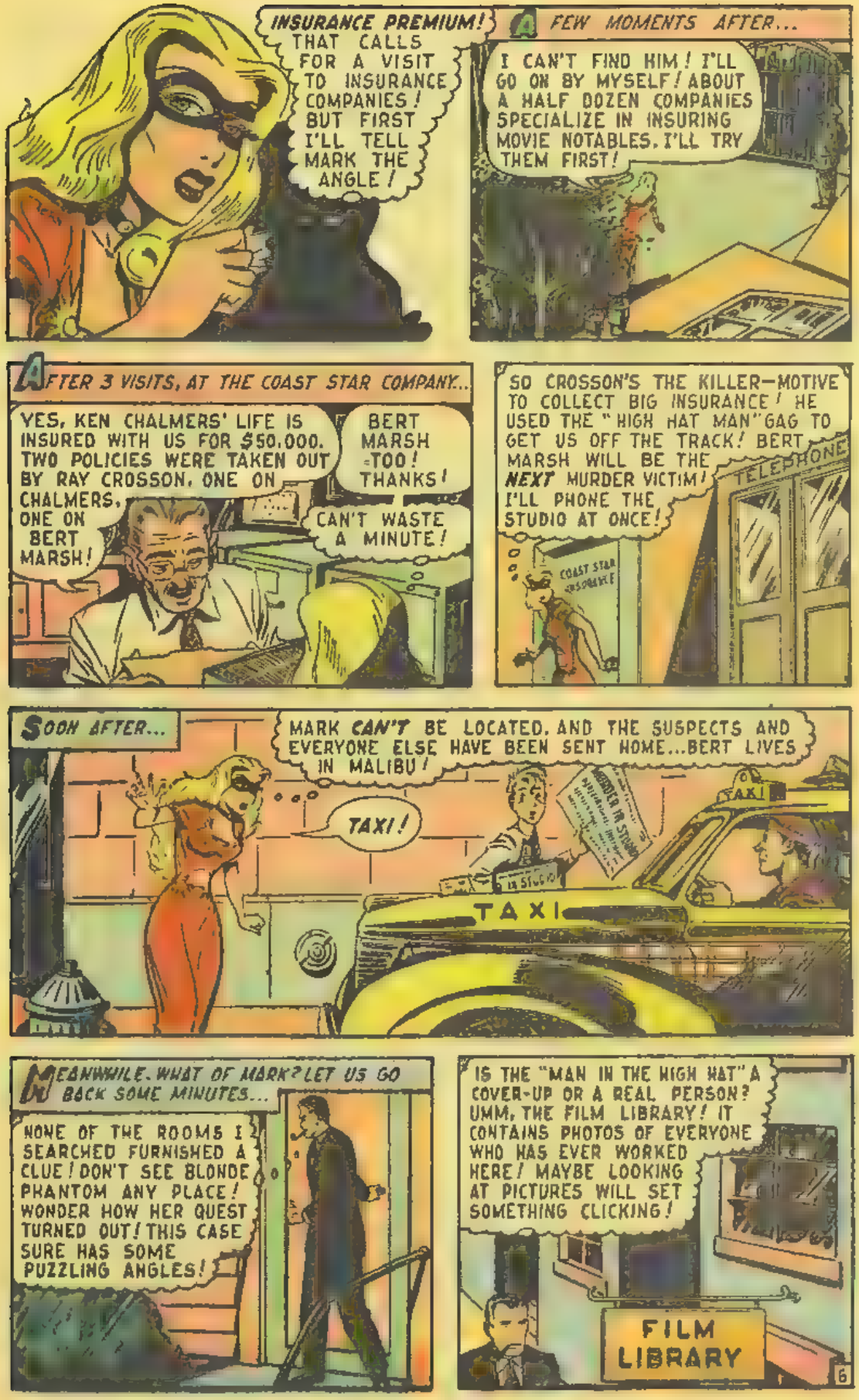
AS THE DAZZLING BLONDE ENTERS CROSSON'S DRESSING ROOM...
I'LL TRY THAT DESK FIRST!

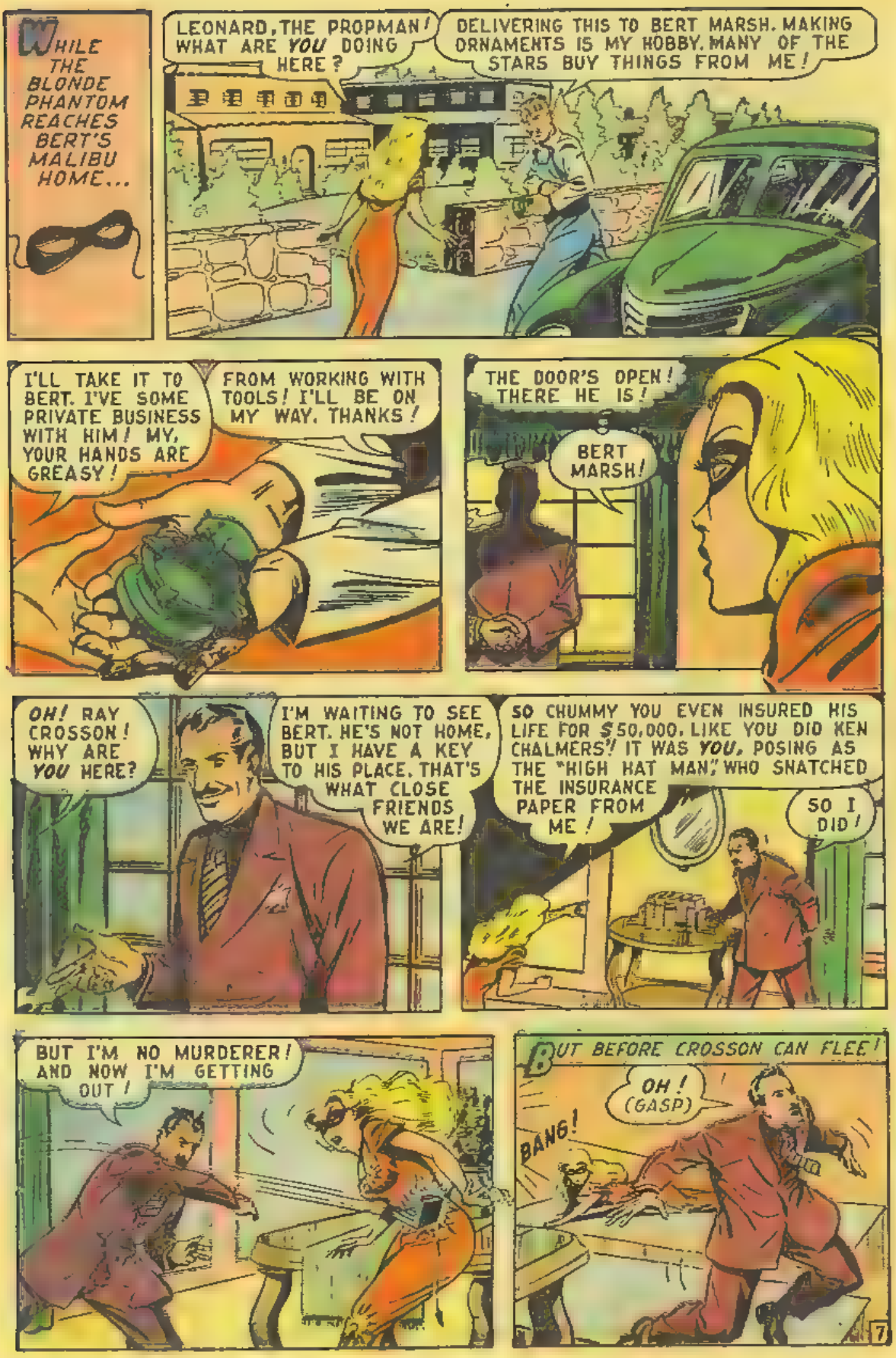

WONDER WHAT THIS IS? LOOKS LIKE SOME KIND OF DOCUMENT...

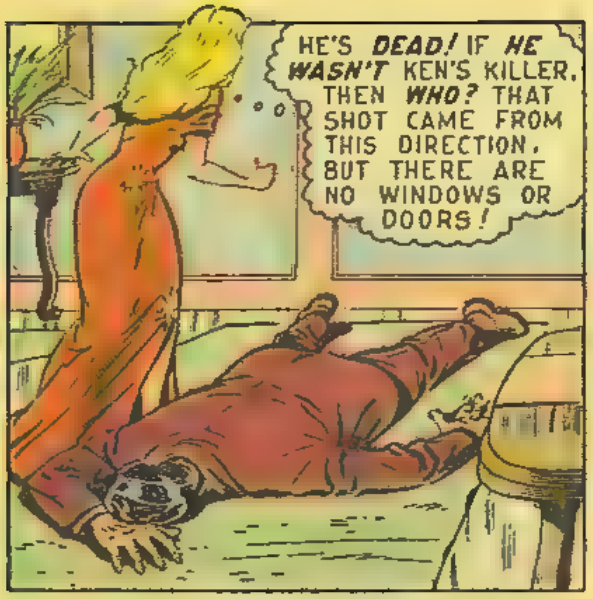
NEXT MOMENT...
I'LL TAKE THAT! HA-HA!
OHHH!

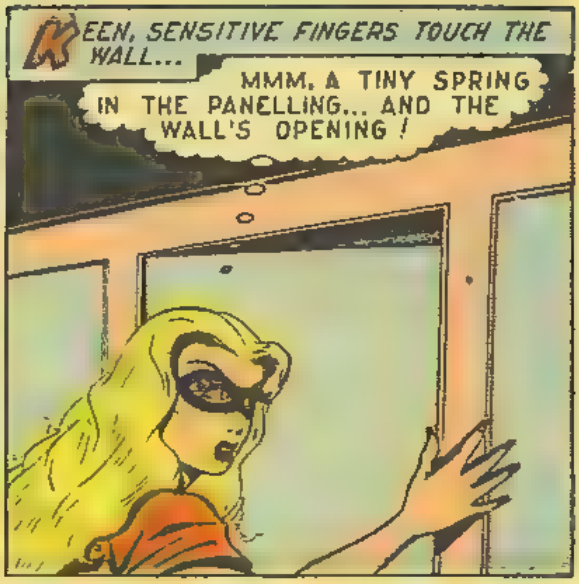

SOME SECONDS LATER, BLONDE PHANTOM RECOVERS FROM THE STUNNING BLOW, AND...
WHOEVER HIT ME TOOK THE PAPER! PROBABLY OUR "HIGH HAT" FRIEND! IT MUST HAVE BEEN IMPORTANT! MMM, WHEN HE SNATCHED IT FROM ME, A SCRAP TORE OFF!

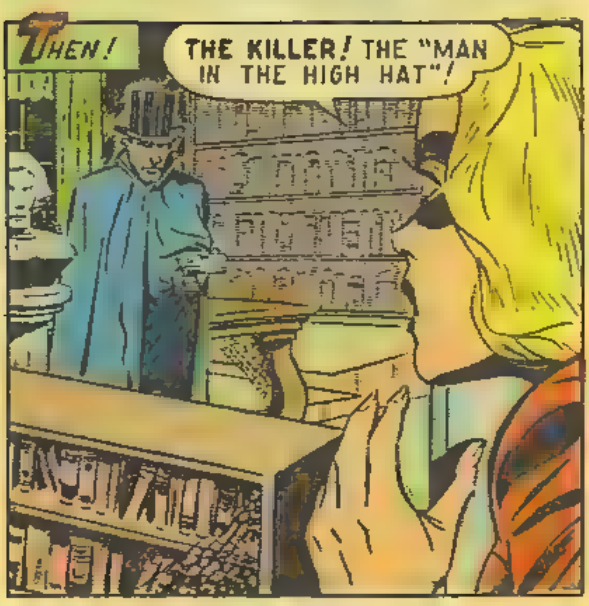

I-U-M! IT'S UNDOUBTEDLY THE LAST PART OF A WORD! WHAT ENDS IN "IUM" ON A DOCUMENT OR CONTRACT? PREMIUM!
IUM

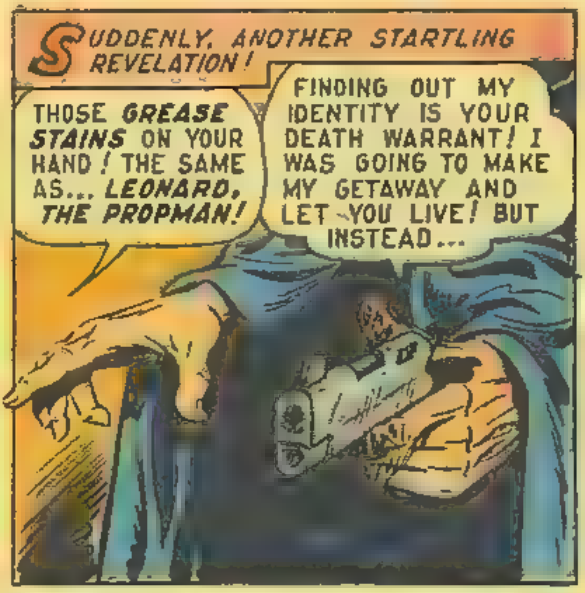

INSURANCE PREMIUM! THAT CALLS FOR A VISIT TO INSURANCE COMPANIES! BUT FIRST I'LL TELL MARK THE ANGLE!
A FEW MOMENTS AFTER...
I CAN'T FIND HIM! I'LL GO ON BY MYSELF! ABOUT A HALF DOZEN COMPANIES SPECIALIZE IN INSURING MOVIE NOTABLES. I'LL TRY THEM FIRST!
AFTER 3 VISITS, AT THE COAST STAR COMPANY...
YES, KEN CHALMERS' LIFE IS INSURED WITH US FOR $50,000. TWO POLICIES WERE TAKEN OUT BY RAY CROSSON. ONE ON CHALMERS, ONE ON BERT MARSH!
BERT MARSH -TOO! THANKS!
CAN'T WASTE A MINUTE!
SO CROSSON'S THE KILLER—MOTIVE TO COLLECT BIG INSURANCE! HE USED THE "HIGH HAT MAN" GAG TO GET US OFF THE TRACK! BERT MARSH WILL BE THE NEXT MURDER VICTIM! I'LL PHONE THE STUDIO AT ONCE!
TELEPHONE
COAST STAR INSURANCE
SOON AFTER...
MARK CAN'T BE LOCATED, AND THE SUSPECTS AND EVERYONE ELSE HAVE BEEN SENT HOME...BERT LIVES IN MALIBU!
TAXI!
MURDER IN STUDIO
TAXI
TAXI
MEANWHILE, WHAT OF MARK? LET US GO BACK SOME MINUTES...
NONE OF THE ROOMS I SEARCHED FURNISHED A CLUE! DON'T SEE BLONDE PHANTOM ANY PLACE! WONDER HOW HER QUEST TURNED OUT! THIS CASE SURE HAS SOME PUZZLING ANGLES!
IS THE "MAN IN THE HIGH HAT" A COVER-UP OR A REAL PERSON? UMM, THE FILM LIBRARY! IT CONTAINS PHOTOS OF EVERYONE WHO HAS EVER WORKED HERE! MAYBE LOOKING AT PICTURES WILL SET SOMETHING CLICKING!
FILM LIBRARY
6


While the Blonde Phantom reaches Bert's Malibu home...
Leonard, the propman! What are YOU doing here?
Delivering this to Bert Marsh. Making ornaments is my hobby. Many of the stars buy things from me!
I'll take it to Bert. I've some private business with him! My, your hands are greasy!
From working with tools! I'll be on my way. Thanks!
The door's open! There he is!
Bert Marsh!
Oh! Ray Crosson! Why are YOU here?
I'm waiting to see Bert. He's not home, but I have a key to his place. That's what close friends we are!
So chummy you even insured his life for $50,000. Like you did Ken Chalmers! It was YOU, posing as the "high hat man," who snatched the insurance paper from me!
So I did!
But I'm no murderer! And now I'm getting out!
But before Crosson can flee!
Oh! (gasp)
Bang!
7

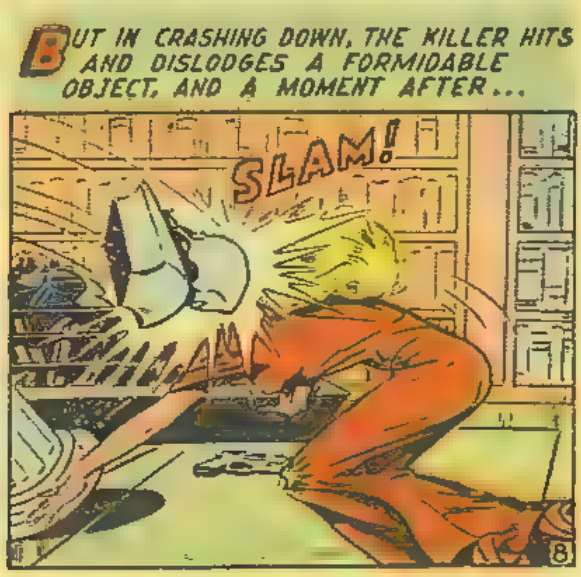

HE'S DEAD! IF HE WASN'T KEN'S KILLER, THEN WHO? THAT SHOT CAME FROM THIS DIRECTION. BUT THERE ARE NO WINDOWS OR DOORS!

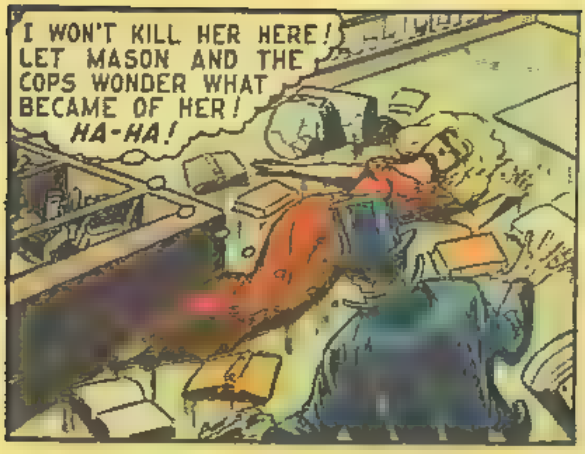

KEEN, SENSITIVE FINGERS TOUCH THE WALL...
MMM, A TINY SPRING IN THE PANELLING... AND THE WALL'S OPENING!

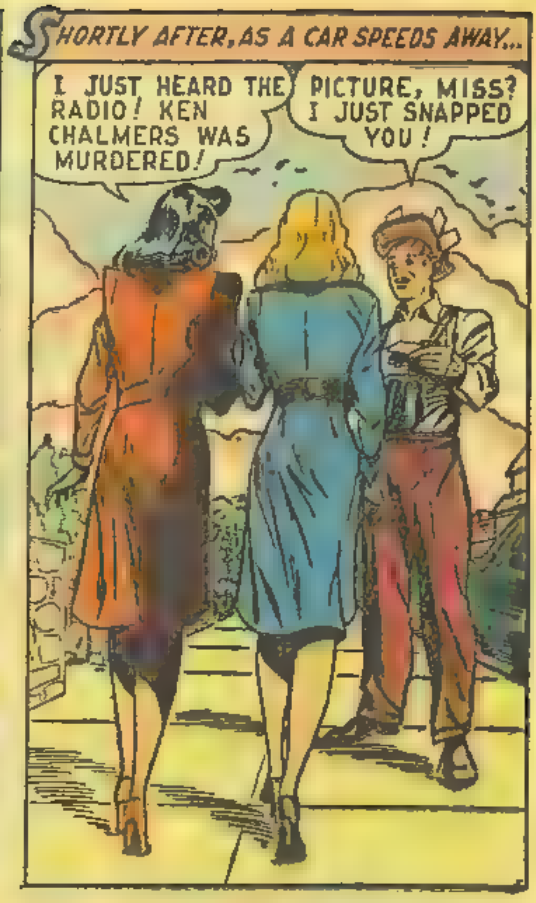

THEN!
THE KILLER! THE "MAN IN THE HIGH HAT"!

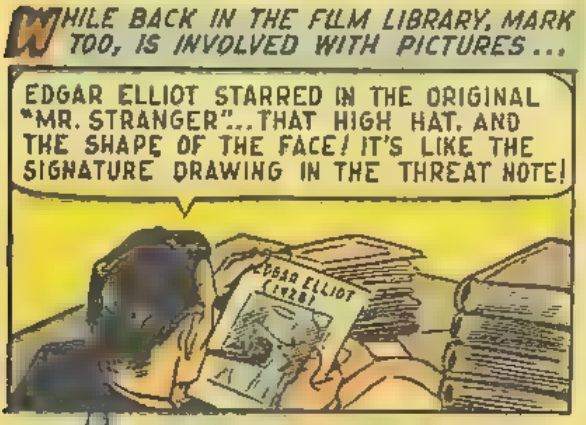

SUDDENLY, ANOTHER STARTLING REVELATION!
THOSE GREASE STAINS ON YOUR HAND! THE SAME AS... LEONARD, THE PROPMAN!
FINDING OUT MY IDENTITY IS YOUR DEATH WARRANT! I WAS GOING TO MAKE MY GETAWAY AND LET YOU LIVE! BUT INSTEAD...

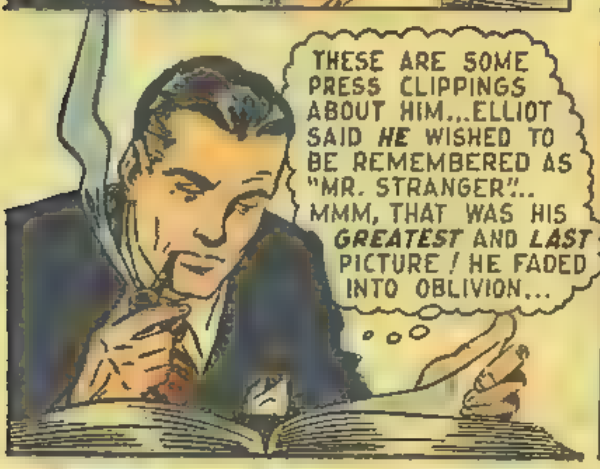
I'LL TAKE THAT GUN!
OOF!

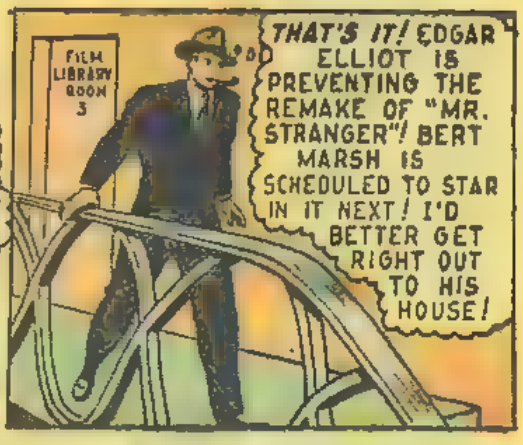

BUT IN CRASHING DOWN, THE KILLER HITS AND DISLODGES A FORMIDABLE OBJECT, AND A MOMENT AFTER...
SLAM!


I WON'T KILL HER HERE! LET MASON AND THE COPS WONDER WHAT BECAME OF HER! HA-HA!

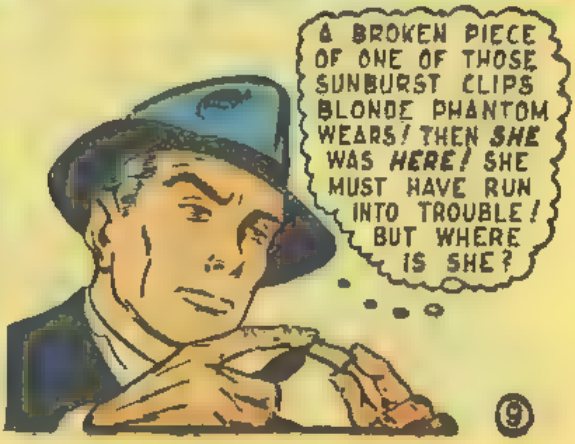

SHORTLY AFTER, AS A CAR SPEEDS AWAY...
I JUST HEARD THE RADIO! KEN CHALMERS WAS MURDERED!
PICTURE, MISS? I JUST SNAPPED YOU!


WHILE BACK IN THE FILM LIBRARY, MARK TOO, IS INVOLVED WITH PICTURES...
EDGAR ELLIOT STARRED IN THE ORIGINAL "MR. STRANGER"... THAT HIGH HAT, AND THE SHAPE OF THE FACE! IT'S LIKE THE SIGNATURE DRAWING IN THE THREAT NOTE!
EDGAR ELLIOT (1928)

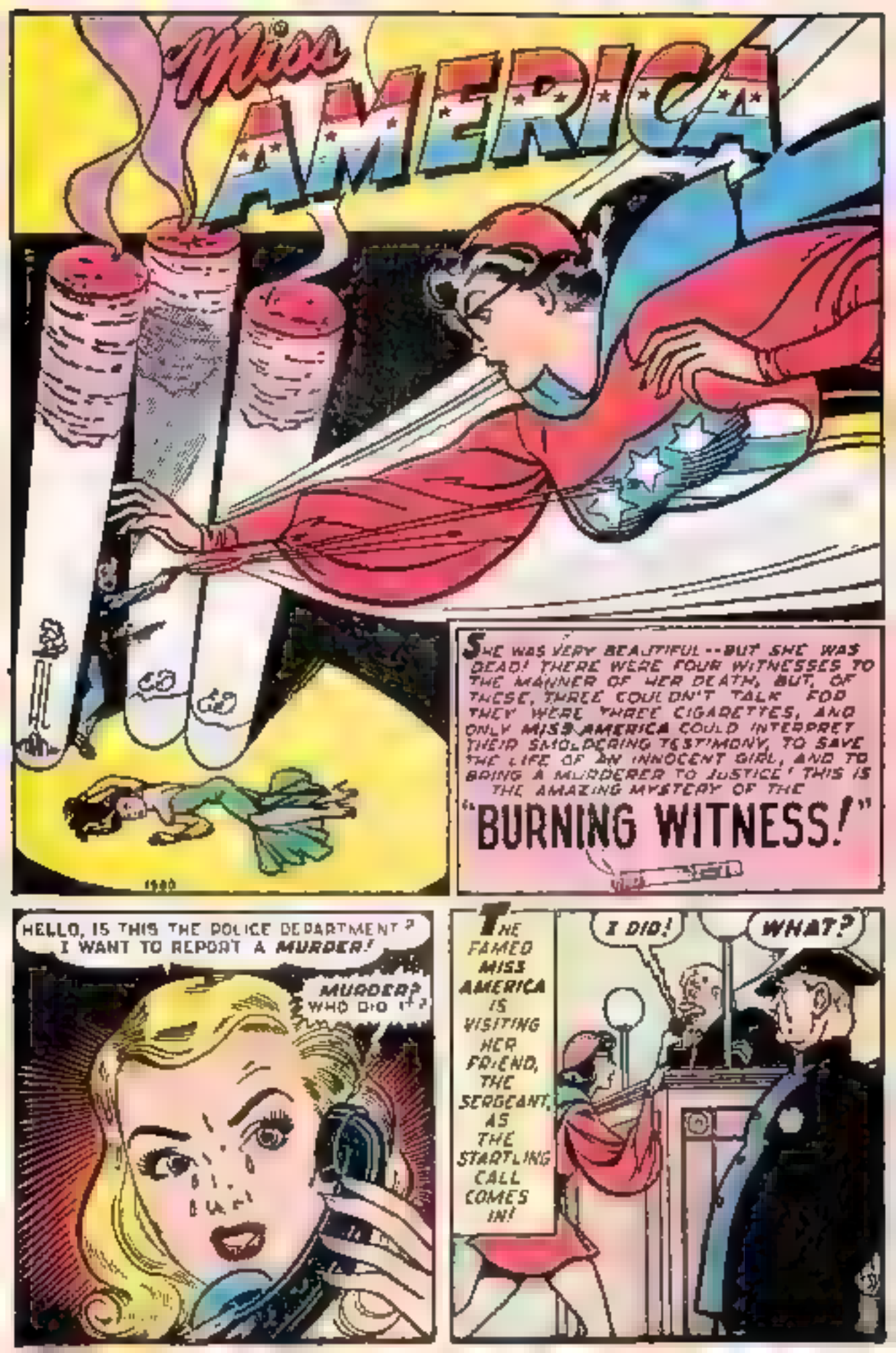

THESE ARE SOME PRESS CLIPPINGS ABOUT HIM... ELLIOT SAID HE WISHED TO BE REMEMBERED AS "MR. STRANGER"... MMM, THAT WAS HIS GREATEST AND LAST PICTURE! HE FADED INTO OBLIVION...


FILM LIBRARY ROOM 3
THAT'S IT! EDGAR ELLIOT IS PREVENTING THE REMAKE OF "MR. STRANGER"! BERT MARSH IS SCHEDULED TO STAR IN IT NEXT! I'D BETTER GET RIGHT OUT TO HIS HOUSE!

SOON...
CROSSON - SHOT TO DEATH! SO ELLIOT GOES IN FOR KILLING DIRECTORS AS WELL AS STARS!
SAY, WHAT'S THIS?


A BROKEN PIECE OF ONE OF THOSE SUNBURST CLIPS BLONDE PHANTOM WEARS! THEN SHE WAS HERE! SHE MUST HAVE RUN INTO TROUBLE! BUT WHERE IS SHE?

As Mark strides outside, worriedly pondering...
BERT! WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? AND IT BETTER BE GOOD! CROSSON'S BEEN MURDERED IN YOUR HOUSE!
WHAT! I'VE BEEN AT MY TAILOR'S THE PAST HOUR!
Mark continues his inquiry, while minutes later, blonde phantom awakens, trapped, menaced!
NOW I GET THE IDEA! YOU'RE EDGAR ELLIOT!
YES! THE GREAT EDGAR ELLIOT! THE WORLD REMEMBERS ME AS "MR. STRANGER"! THEY MUST REMEMBER ME FOR ALL ETERNITY!
NOT REMEMBER CHALMERS—OR BERT MARSH! THAT UPSTART, INTENT ON TAKING MY GLORY! I KILLED CROSSON, THINKING HE WAS BERT! BUT I'LL GO OUT AND GET MARSH, AS SOON AS I KILL YOU!
Suddenly!
YOU'VE PLAYED YOUR LAST STAR ROLE, KILLER!
MARK!
Later...
AND THAT CLOSES THE CASE! BUT, MARK, HOW DID YOU GET ONTO LEONARD... ER, ELLIOT?
FROM A PHOTOGRAPHER WHO HAD TAKEN PICTURES NEAR BERT'S HOUSE...I HAD THEM ALL DEVELOPED FAST!
The following day...
SURE ENOUGH, ONE SHOWED A CAR DRIVING AWAY. LICENSE NUMBER CLEAR! I TRACED IT—FOUND IT WAS REGISTERED IN LEONARD'S NAME!
WELL, ADIOS, MARK! WE'LL MEET AGAIN, I KNOW!
GREETINGS! WHAT A CASE! PLENTY OF THRILLS! AND THE BLONDE PHANTOM WAS THERE TOO! ANYTHING HAPPEN HERE, LOUISE?
GOSH, NO... (SIGH) NOTHING HAPPENS TO ME!
THE END

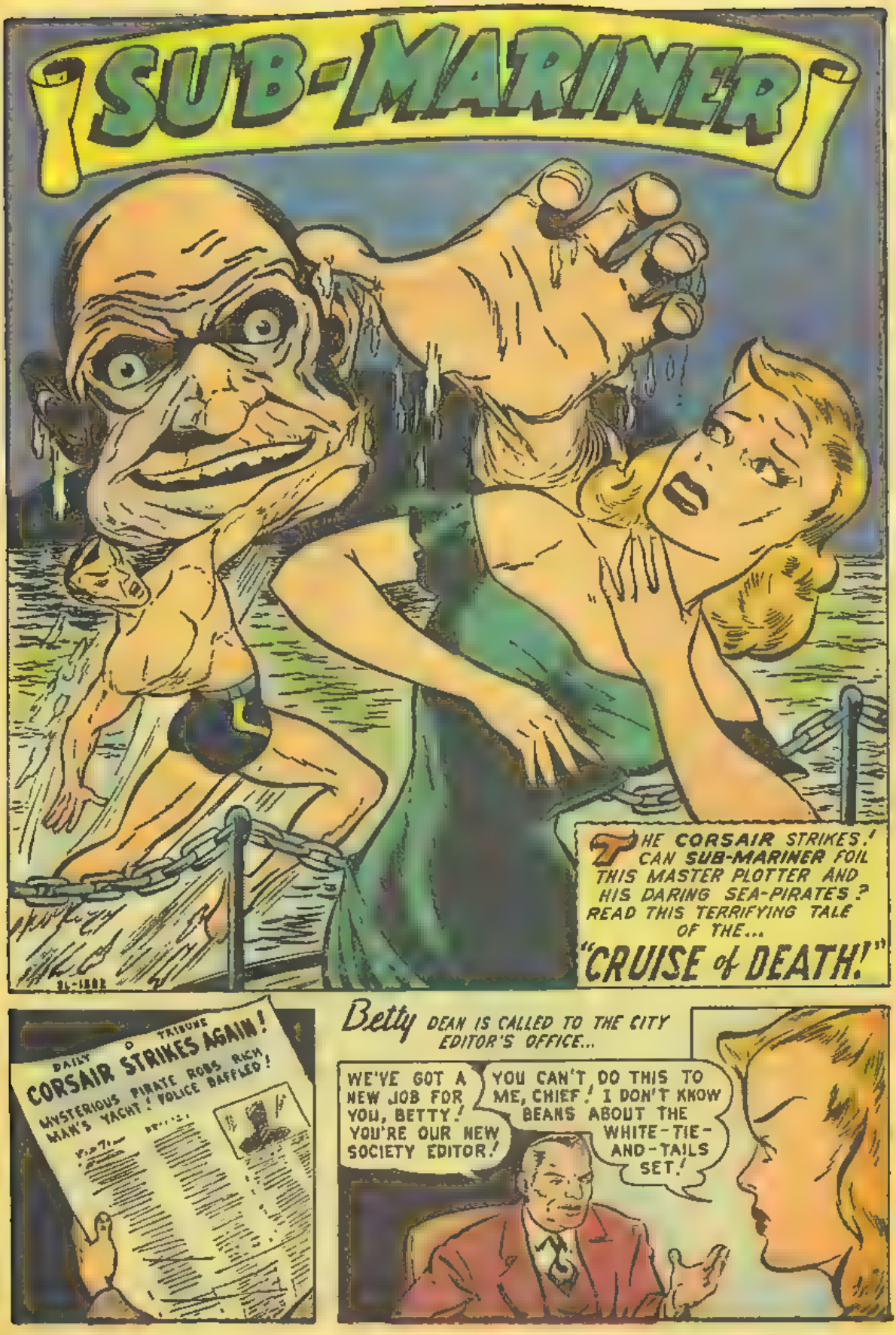

Miss AMERICA
SHE WAS VERY BEAUTIFUL--BUT SHE WAS DEAD! THERE WERE FOUR WITNESSES TO THE MANNER OF HER DEATH, BUT, OF THESE, THREE COULDN'T TALK FOR THEY WERE THREE CIGARETTES, AND ONLY MISS AMERICA COULD INTERPRET THEIR SMOLDERING TESTIMONY, TO SAVE THE LIFE OF AN INNOCENT GIRL, AND TO BRING A MURDERER TO JUSTICE! THIS IS THE AMAZING MYSTERY OF THE
"BURNING WITNESS!"
1950
HELLO, IS THIS THE POLICE DEPARTMENT? I WANT TO REPORT A MURDER!
MURDER? WHO DID IT?
THE FAMED MISS AMERICA IS VISITING HER FRIEND, THE SERGEANT, AS THE STARTLING CALL COMES IN!
I DID!
WHAT?

WHAT'S WRONG SERGEANT?
SOME CRAZY DAME JUST CONFESSED TO A MURDER! AND I DON'T THINK SHE WAS KIDDING COME ALONG IF YOU LIKE
AT THE HOME OF THE LATE ELSIE DUBOISE
SO YOU KILLED HER WITH THIS GUN WOULD YOU MIND TELLING ME WHY?
I REFUSE TO SAY ANYTHING MORE ARREST ME!
I'LL SEND THE CORONER OPEN AND SHUT CASE EH MISS AMERICA?
HMMMM! IF YOU DON'T MIND I'LL WAIT HERE FOR THE CORONER TO ARRIVE
SHE SEEMS VERY ANXIOUS TO BE ARRESTED THAT MEANS SHE MAY BE SHIELDING SOMEONE!
AS SOON AS SHE IS ALONE MISS AMERICA BEGINS AN INTENSIVE SEARCH OF THE APARTMENT!
THREE CIGARETTES AND ONLY TWO WITH LIPSTICK! THAT PROVES THERE WAS SOMEONE ELSE HERE A MAN!
IT'S A SLENDER CLUE! BUT THIS CIGARETTE IS OF FOREIGN MANUFACTURE, AND IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN, THOSE MUST BE THE SMOKER'S INITIALS!
I'M STILL RIDING A HUNCH BUT I THINK I'M ON THE RIGHT TRACK FIRST STOP IS THE IMPORTER OF "PYRAMID" CIGARETTES

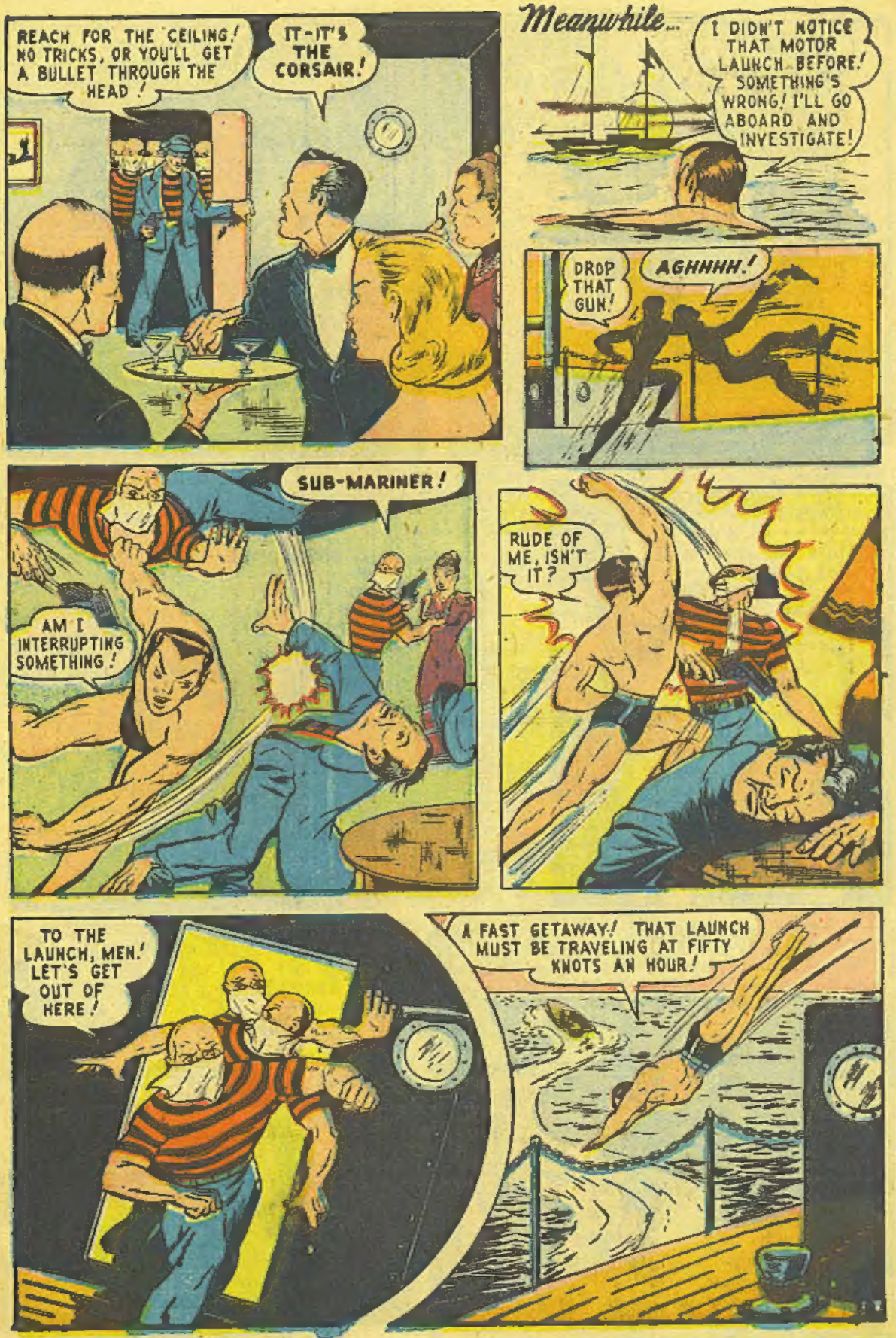
AT THE CIGARETTE IMPORTING HOUSE..
WE HAVE VERY FEW CUSTOMERS FOR PYRAMID CIGARETTES! ALL ORDERS ARE HANDLED BY THIS OFFICE! I CAN SHOW YOU THE LIST
YOU ARE VERY KIND! THANK YOU
THERE'S ONLY ONE NAME BEGINNING WITH AN "L" ARMAND LAXTO, AT 144 STREAMSIDE DRIVE
AH, YES, THAT'S COUNT ARMAND LAXTO!
IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE I CAN TELL YOU?
YOU'VE TOLD ME ALL I WANT TO KNOW! THANKS AGAIN
MEANWHILE, AT COUNT ARMAND LAXTO'S APARTMENT
BUT WHERE ARE WE GOING, DAD? SHALL WE BE GONE LONG?
NEVER MIND THE QUESTIONS! PACK OUR THINGS
WHEN SUDDENLY!
MISS AMERICA!
LOOKS LIKE YOU WERE PLANNING A QUICK TRIP, COUNT! WHY THE HASTE?
YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE, UNTIL YOU'VE EXPLAINED THE DEATH OF A WOMAN NAMED ELISE DUBOISE!
YOU--YOU'RE MAD! I NEVER HEARD OF HER!
NOW I KNOW YOU'RE LYING AND YOU'D ONLY LIE IF YOU WERE HER MURDERER! I FOUND YOUR CIGARETTE IN HER APARTMENT HALF AN HOUR AGO

OHHHH!
NICELY DONE ERIC NOW YOU KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT WHY WE'RE LEAVING AND WE'VE PRECIOUS LITTLE TIME TO WASTE!
I'LL FINISH PACKING SIR BUT FIRST WE'D BETTER MAKE SURE MISS AMERICA WON'T BOTHER YOU AGAIN!
SOON, AS DAZED CONSCIOUSNESS RETURNS TO MISS AMERICA...
OHH! MY HEAD! WHAT'S THAT QUEER SMELL? GAS! IT'S COMING FROM THE BRAZIERS OF THAT ARTIFICIAL FIREPLACE!
I'M GETTING OUT OF THIS PLACE! BUT QUICK THIS STATUE WILL DO THE TRICK!
THIS WINDOW GLASS WILL CUT MY BONDS! THEY CAN'T HAVE MUCH OF A HEAD START!
THAT MUST BE THE ROAD!
YOU!
YES, ME! COME OUT AND FIGHT LIKE A MAN!

AS THE COUNT'S NEARLESS FINGERS LEAVE THE WHEEL, THE CAR VEERS SUDDENLY OFF THE ROAD. AND.
OH, SO YOU'RE GOING TO TRY SOME FIREWORKS?
I HAVE NO TIME TO WASTE, SO I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU BOTH AT ONCE!
OHHHH!
START TALKING!
I NEEDED MONEY WAS TO MARRY WEALTHY CONSTANCE LANE
"ELISE DUBOISE KNEW THAT HIND ONCE BEEN ARRESTED ON THE CONTINENT FOR FORGERY, AND SHE WAS THREATENING TO TELL THIS TO CONSTANCE"
UNLESS YOU PAY ME FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS IN CASH AND I MEAN NOW, ARMAND
"I DIDN'T HAVE THAT MUCH MONEY! I WAS AFRAID CONSTANCE WOULDN'T MARRY ME IF SHE KNEW THE TRUTH! SO I KILLED ELISE!"
CONSTANCE CAME IN TO VISIT ELISE AND FOUND US! SHE TOLD ME TO RUN AWAY, AND SHE WOULD TAKE THE BLAME. THE FOOL REALLY LOVED ME
SOON
I COULDN'T LET YOU BE CHARGED WITH MURDER TO PROTECT A ROGUE LIKE LAXTO! YOU LOVED HIM, NOT WISELY BUT TOO WELL, CONSTANCE!
YOU'RE SO RIGHT, MISS AMERICA! AND I'M GRATEFUL TO YOU!
THE END
5


SUB-MARINER
THE CORSAIR STRIKES! CAN SUB-MARINER FOIL THIS MASTER PLOTTER AND HIS DARING SEA-PIRATES? READ THIS TERRIFYING TALE OF THE...
"CRUISE of DEATH!"
DAILY TRIBUNE
CORSAIR STRIKES AGAIN!
MYSTERIOUS PIRATE ROBS RICH MAN'S YACHT! POLICE BAFFLED!
Betty DEAN IS CALLED TO THE CITY EDITOR'S OFFICE...
WE'VE GOT A NEW JOB FOR YOU, BETTY! YOU'RE OUR NEW SOCIETY EDITOR!
YOU CAN'T DO THIS TO ME, CHIEF! I DON'T KNOW BEANS ABOUT THE WHITE-TIE-AND-TAILS SET!

I'M STRICTLY LOWER CASTE! GIVE ME A GOOD CRIMINAL CASE ANY DAY!
THAT'S WHAT I'M GIVING YOU, BETTY! ONLY DON'T ADVERTISE IT! I'M ASSIGNING YOU TO COVER A PARTY ABOARD JOHN WILLIAMSON'S YACHT!
THE CORSAIR HASN'T BOTHERED WILLIAMSON YET, BUT IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME! YOU'LL BE ON HAND WHEN HE DOES!
I GET IT, CHIEF! PLAYING SOCIETY EDITOR IS JUST A GOOD EXCUSE FOR BEING THERE! THANKS!
Later, AT THE SECRET PHONE BOOTH WHERE SUB-MARINER RECEIVES BETTY DEAN'S PHONE CALLS...
THE WILLIAMSON YACHT, EH? I'VE BEEN THINKING THE SAME THING! I WON'T BE FAR AWAY, BETTY!
IF THE CORSAIR SHOWS UP, HE'LL GET A RECEPTION HE WON'T WELCOME!
But JOHN WILLIAMSON IS WELL AWARE OF THE MENACE OF THE CORSAIR!
YOU'RE CERTAIN THAT NO ONE KNOWS OUR COURSE, CAPTAIN?
I'M TRAVELING UNFREQUENTED WATERS, SIR, SO NO ONE CAN FOLLOW US!
But THAT NIGHT!
SOFTLY, MEN! WE'LL TAKE 'EM BY SURPRISE!
THAT DOES FOR HIM!
UHHH!
2


REACH FOR THE CEILING! NO TRICKS, OR YOU'LL GET A BULLET THROUGH THE HEAD!
IT-IT'S THE CORSAIR!
Meanwhile...
I DIDN'T NOTICE THAT MOTOR LAUNCH BEFORE! SOMETHING'S WRONG! I'LL GO ABOARD AND INVESTIGATE!
DROP THAT GUN!
AGHHHH!
SUB-MARINER!
AM I INTERRUPTING SOMETHING!
RUDE OF ME, ISN'T IT?
TO THE LAUNCH, MEN! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
A FAST GETAWAY! THAT LAUNCH MUST BE TRAVELING AT FIFTY KNOTS AN HOUR!

HALP!
SO IT ONLY TOOK ME A MINUTE OR SO TO CATCH UP! LIKE THIS!
EEOWW!
YOUR PIRATE DAYS ARE OVER!
Later...
YOU DID A GREAT JOB, SUB-MARINER!
WHAT A STORY THIS WILL MAKE! THE END OF THE CORSAIR!
NOT QUITE THE END!
NOT UNTIL I TAKE THE LEADER INTO CUSTODY!
EH? BUT THERE MUST BE SOME MISTAKE!
YOU MADE THE MISTAKE, MR. CORSAIR! I FOUND A SHORT-WAVE RECEIVING SET IN THAT PRIVATE LAUNCH! SOMEBODY SIGNALED THE YACHT'S NEW COURSE!
THAT DOESN'T PROVE I DID IT! I HAVEN'T EVEN GOT A SHORT-WAVE SENDING SET!
BUT YOU DO HAVE A DIATHERMY MACHINE, SUPPOSEDLY FOR CURING RHEUMATICS! ACTUALLY YOU USED IT FOR SENDING OUT SHORT-WAVE MESSAGES TO YOUR MEN!
YOU'RE CLEVER, SUB-MARINER! IF NOT FOR YOU, I COULD HAVE RULED THE SEAS!
NEXT DAY...
HE'LL ONLY GET A PRISON TERM! IN THE OLD DAYS, THEY'D HAVE HUNG HIM FROM THE NEAREST YARDARM!
TIMES CHANGE, SUB-MARINER! BUT I ALWAYS SEEM TO HAVE AN EXCITING TIME WHEN YOU'RE AROUND!
BUS STOP
THE END

WIN BIG CASH PRIZES!

ARE YOU A KNITTIN' KITTEN?
A CLEVER COOKIE?
GOT OCEANS OF NOTIONS?

4 BIG CONTESTS IN THE APRIL ISSUE OF Miss America

1 COOKING

WHAT'S COOKING ON **YOUR** BURNER IN THE SWEET-STUFF DEPARTMENT? WHIP UP THE TASTIEST, TEMPTINGEST COOKIES, CAKES OR CANDY AND WIN BIG ***CASH*** PRIZES FOR THEM!

2 PAINTING

. . . WITHOUT A BRUSH! PLASTIC PAINTS TO HELP DESIGN COSTLY-COOKING ITEMS, WITH LITTLE COST! NO END TO THE THINGS YOU CAN DO. THE MONEY YOU CAN MAKE IN THIS KEEN NEW COMPETITION!

3 IDEAS

FOR FANCY-FLUFF AND FUN! RUFFLE YOUR OWN-PICTURE FRAMES, APRONS - OH, SO MANY THINGS - AND WIN GIANT CASH AWARDS!

4 KNITTING AND CROCHETING

USE YOUR NOODLE AND YOUR NEEDLE - AND COME UP WITH SOME PRETTY, PRACTICAL PRIZE-WINNERS! ALSO SURE-FIRE TO MAKE YOUR POCKETS JINGLE-JANGLE!

For all the important details see the

APRIL ISSUE OF Miss America

I am enclosing { $1 for 1 year / $1.50 for 2 years } (cross out one) for a subscription to MISS AMERICA Magazine.

Name _____
PLEASE PRINT

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Age _____

MISS AMERICA Magazine
Subscription Dept. 82 Beaver St
New York 5, N. Y.